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USNMR SHAPE UNITED STATES MESSAGE

OFFICIAL OUTGOING MESSAGE

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OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE PARIS FRANCE
LAURIS NORSTAD, GENERAL, USAF

TO: ASD/ISA

INFO: CJCS

NR: ALO 707

19 Aug 1961

PERSONAL FOR HITZER AND GEN LEMMELIER FROM GEN NORSTAD.

REFERENCE: DEF 501272, dtd 13 Aug (IN 9804)

As stated in my ALO 697 I see no major problem with respect to the mechanics of the transfer of military control as between LIVE OAK and NATO. The transfer of political control from tripartite to NATO authority should if possible occur "before the first probe is launched." If it is not possible at this time to obtain agreement that NATO will, in an emergency, assume responsibility for controlling the implementation of tripartite contingency plans, the very limited operational capability I plan to develop in LIVE OAK could be used to assist me in directing minor operations such as FREE STYLE. In addition, the planned LIVE OAK operational capability will provide a reservoir of qualified personnel that can be absorbed into the NATO control structure on short notice. This will facilitate effective NATO assumption of control without necessitating prior detailed NATO staff participation in all levels of LIVE OAK planning.

It would be helpful if the Ambassadorial Group could advise me: (1) whether I can plan on NATO assuming control over the implementation of tripartite plans in an emergency, and prior to the initiating of any probe or military action. This would be by far the preferable solution; or (2) alternatively, whether this question will have to be left undecided until the emergency occurs, thereby requiring that I be prepared to conduct minimum initial operations (FREE STYLE).

ALO 707

PG 1 of 2 PG3

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using the LIVE OAK staff and tripartite command channels and facilities.

The French views as stated in your cable, that I plan to maintain LIVE OAK as a separate entity at SHAPE, with independent national representatives, not integrated in SHAPE staff, are correct. The purpose of the move, as indicated in my letter to the Chiefs of Staff, was not to absorb LIVE OAK into NATO but to facilitate my control over LIVE OAK planning and better coordination of NATO and LIVE OAK plans. Additionally, this will facilitate transition of operational control to NATO on short notice.

I am sending separately a draft directive which I believe covers requirements for further contingency planning by NATO and LIVE OAK. This directive will indicate my views with respect to the division of future planning between NATO and LIVE OAK; the scope and nature of the guidance I consider necessary; and the need for planning alternative military operations both by LIVE OAK and NATO. SCP 3

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Pg 2 of 2 Pgs

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